

IN THE CLAIMS

gub b1 1. (currently amended): A method for conducting a transaction over a network, the network including a first system and a second system, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) initiating a transaction session;
- (b) comparing a value of the first system with a value of the second system, wherein the value of the first system is associated with a particular transaction session; and
- (c) continuing the transaction based on the comparison.

a1 2. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the first system comprises a client system and the second system comprises a server system.

3. (original): The method of claim 2 wherein the value of the client system is in a persistent client-side data file.

4. (original): The method of claim 3 wherein the persistent client-side data file comprises a cookie.

5. (original): The method of claim 4 wherein step b) further comprises:
b1) allowing the server system to compare the value in the cookie with the value in the server system.

6. (original): The method of claim 5 wherein if the value in the cookie does not match the value in the server system, step c) further comprises:

- c1) generating an encryption key;

- c2) storing a portion of the encryption key in the cookie; and
- c3) storing the entire encryption key on the server system.

7. (original): The method of claim 6 wherein step c) further comprises:

- c4) allowing the server system to transfer encrypted information to the client system; and
- c5) allowing the server system to transfer a remaining portion of the encryption key to the client system whereby the encryption key is capable of being utilized by the client system to decrypt the encrypted information.

8. (original): The method of claim 7 wherein step c5) is performed in response to a payment transaction from the client system to the server system.

9. (original): The method of claim 5 wherein if the value in the cookie does match the value in the server system, step c) further comprises:

- c1) allowing the server system to transfer encrypted information to the client system; and
- c2) allowing the server system to transfer a remaining portion of the encryption key to the client system whereby the encryption key is capable of being utilized by the client system to decrypt the encrypted information.

10. (original): The method of claim 9 wherein step c2) is performed in response to a payment transaction from the client system to the server system.

11. (currently amended): A system for conducting a transaction over a network, the network including a first system and a second system, the system comprising:

means for initiating a transaction;

means for comparing a value of the first system with a value of the second system,

wherein the value of the first system is associated with a particular transaction session; and

means for continuing the transaction based on the comparison.

12. (original): The system of claim 11 wherein the first system comprises a client system and the second system comprises a server system.

13. (original): The system of claim 12 wherein the value of the client system is in a persistent client-side data file.

14. (original): The system of claim 13 wherein the persistent client-side data file comprises a cookie.

15. (original): The system of claim 14 wherein the means for comparing further comprises:

means for allowing the server system to compare the value in the cookie with the value in the server system.

16. (original): The system of claim 15 wherein if the value in the cookie does not match the value in the server system, the means for continuing the transaction further comprises:

means for generating an encryption key;

means for storing a portion of the encryption key in the cookie; and

means for storing the entire encryption key on the server system.

17. (original): The system of claim 16 wherein the means for continuing the transaction further comprises:

means for allowing the server system to transfer encrypted information to the client system; and

means for allowing the server system to transfer a remaining portion of the encryption key to the client system whereby the encryption key is capable of being utilized by the client system to decrypt the encrypted information.

18. (original): The system of claim 17 wherein the means for allowing the server system to transfer a remaining portion of the encryption key is performed in response to a payment transaction from the client system to the server system.

19. (original): The system of claim 15 wherein if the value in the cookie does match the value in the server system, the means for continuing the transaction further comprises:

means for allowing the server system to transfer encrypted information to the client system; and

means for allowing the server system to transfer a remaining portion of the encryption key to the client system whereby the encryption key is capable of being utilized by the client system to decrypt the encrypted information.

20. (original): The system of claim 19 wherein the means for allowing the server system

to transfer a remaining portion of the encryption key is performed in response to a payment transaction from the client system to the server system.

21. (currently amended): A computer readable medium containing program instructions for conducting a transaction over a network, the network including a first system and a second system, the program instructions comprising the steps of:

- (a) initiating a transaction;
- (b) comparing a value of the first system with a value of the second system,
wherein the value of the first system is associated with a particular transaction session; and
- (c) continuing the transaction based on the comparison.

22. (original): The computer readable medium of claim 21 wherein the first system comprises a client system and the second system comprises a server system.

23. (original): The computer readable medium of claim 22 wherein the value of the client system is in a persistent client-side data file.

24. (original): The computer readable medium of claim 23 wherein the persistent client-side data file comprises a cookie.

25. (original): The computer readable medium of claim 24 wherein step b) further comprises:

- b1) allowing the server system to compare the value in the cookie with the value in the server system.

26. (original): The computer readable medium of claim 25 wherein if the value in the cookie does not match the value in the server system, step c) further comprises:

- c1) generating an encryption key;
- c2) storing a portion of the encryption key in the cookie; and
- c3) storing the entire encryption key on the server system.

27. (original): The computer readable medium of claim 26 wherein step c) further comprises:

- c4) allowing the server system to transfer encrypted information to the client system; and
- c5) allowing the server system to transfer a remaining portion of the encryption key to the client system whereby the encryption key is capable of being utilized by the client system to decrypt the encrypted information.

28. (original): The computer readable medium of claim 27 wherein step c5) is performed in response to a payment transaction from the client system to the server system.

29. (original): The computer readable medium of claim 25 wherein if the value in the cookie does match the value in the server system, step c) further comprises:

- c1) allowing the server system to transfer encrypted information to the client system; and
- c2) allowing the server system to transfer a remaining portion of the encryption key to the client system whereby the encryption key is capable of being utilized by the

client system to decrypt the encrypted information.

30. (original): The computer readable medium of claim 29 wherein step c2) is performed in response to a payment transaction from the client system to the server system.

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